

ATTACHMENT B

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) Moulding sand supply apparatus comprising
a sand reservoir for delivering sand to a mainly horizontal belt conveyor, said belt conveyor being controlled to deliver an appropriate amount of sand directly to a flask for filling ~~a~~ of the flask, said flask being positioned to receive sand ~~falling-cast~~ from a discharge end of the belt conveyor, and
means for controlling the belt conveyor speed according to a speed profile, said speed profile providing varying casting distances trajectories for the delivered sand relative to the speed of the belt conveyor, resulting in a controlled varied distribution, in the transport direction of the belt conveyor, of the cast sand filling the flask without any movement of the discharge end of said belt conveyor relative to said flask.
2. (Currently Amended) Apparatus in accordance with claim 1 further comprising guide plates to influence the distribution of the cast sand in a direction perpendicular to the transport direction of the belt conveyor.
3. (Currently Amended) Apparatus in accordance with claim 1, further comprising guiding plates to influence the distribution of the cast sand in the transport direction of the belt conveyor.
4. (Currently Amended) Apparatus in accordance with claim 1, further comprising a funnel positioned to guide the ~~falling-cast~~ sand between the belt conveyor and the flask.
5. (Currently Amended) Apparatus in accordance with claim 1, further comprising a weighing unit detecting the weight of the cast sand delivered to the flask.
6. (Previously Presented) Apparatus in accordance with claim 4, wherein said weighing unit is a sensor activated by the deflection of a structure supporting the flask.

7. (Currently Amended) Method for supplying moulding sand from a sand reservoir via a belt conveyor to a flask comprising the steps of

positioning the belt conveyor and flask so that the belt conveyor supplies sand directly to the flask,

controlling the belt conveyor to supply an appropriate amount of sand for directly filling of a the flask, and

controlling the belt conveyor speed according to a varying speed profile providing varying casting distances relative to the speed of the belt conveyor for the delivered sand leaving which is cast from the discharge end of the belt conveyor, said varying casting distances trajectories resulting in a controlled varied distribution, in the transport direction of the belt conveyor, of the cast sand filling the flask without any movement of the discharge end of the belt conveyor relative to the flask.

8. (Currently Amended) Method in accordance with claim 7, comprising the further step of providing guide plates to influence the distribution of the cast sand in a direction perpendicular to the transport direction of the belt conveyor.

9. (Currently Amended) Method in accordance with claim 7, comprising the further step of providing a funnel to guide the cast sand ~~falling between the belt conveyor and the flask.~~

10. (Currently Amended) Method in accordance with claim 7, comprising the further step of using the weight of the cast sand delivered to the flask as an input to the controller controlling the belt conveyor speed.